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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UTILITY APPLICATION AND APPLICATION FEE TRANSMITTAL (1.53(b))

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Box Patent Application

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of

Named Inventor(s) and

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For:

OPTICAL DEVICE AND IMAGE SENSING SYSTEM

Enclosed are:

☒ 20 page(s) of specification, 1 page(s) of Abstract, 6 Page(s) of claims

☒ 3 sheets of drawing ☒ formal ☐ informal

☐ Page(s) of Declaration and Power of Attorney

☐ Unsigned

☐ Newly Executed

☐ Copy from prior application

☐ Deletion of inventors including Signed Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.63(d)(2)

☒ Incorporation by Reference: The entire disclosure of the priority application(s) identified below, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is incorporated herein by reference.

☐ Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)

☐ page(s) of Sequence Listing

☐ computer readable disk containing Sequence Listing

☐ Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.821(f) that computer and paper copies of the Sequence Listing are the same

☒ Claim for Priority Japanese Application No 11-217984 filed 7/30/99

☐ Certified copy of Priority Document(s)

- ☐ English translation documents
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement
- ☒ Copy of 1 Cited reference
- ☐ Copy of PTO-1449 filed in parent application serial No. _____.
- ☐ Preliminary Amendment
- ☒ Return receipt postcard (MPEP 503)
- ☐ Assignment Papers (assignment cover sheet and assignment documents)
- ☐ A check in the amount of \$40.00 for recording the Assignment.
- ☐ Assignment papers filed in parent application Serial No. _____.
- ☐ Certification of chain of title pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 3.73(b).
- ☐ This is a ☐ continuation ☐ divisional ☐ continuation-in-part (C-I-P) of prior application serial no. _____.
- ☐ Cancel in this application original claims _____ of the parent application before calculating the filing fee. (At least one original independent claim must be retained for filing purposes.)
- ☐ A preliminary Amendment is enclosed. (Claims added by this Amendment have been properly numbered consecutively beginning with the number following the highest numbered original claim in the prior application.
- ☐ The status of the parent application is as follows:
- ☐ A Petition For Extension of Time and a Fee therefor has been or is being filed in the parent application to extend the term for action in the parent application until _____.
- ☐ A copy of the Petition for Extension of Time in the co-pending parent application is attached.
- ☐ No Petition For Extension of Time and Fee therefor are necessary in the co-pending parent application.
- ☐ Please abandon the parent application at a time while the parent application is pending or at a time when the petition for extension of time in that application is granted and while this application is pending has been granted a filing date, so as to make this application co-pending.
- ☐ Transfer the drawing(s) from the patent application to this application.
- ☐ Amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:
This is a ☐ continuation ☐ divisional ☐ continuation-in-part of co-pending application Serial No. _____ filed _____.

I. CALCULATION OF APPLICATION FEE (For Other Than A Small Entity)

	Number Filed		Number Extra	Rate	Basic Fee \$ 690.00
Total Claims	18	-20=	0	x\$18.00	\$ 0
Independent Claims	2	- 3=	0	x78.00	\$ 0
Multiple Dependent Claims	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no				Additional Fee = Add'l Fee = 260.00
				NONE	\$.0

Total: \$690.00

- ☐ A statement claiming small entity status is attached or has been filed in the above-identified parent application and its benefit under 37 C.F.R. § 1.28(a) is hereby claimed. Reduced fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.9(F) (50% of total) paid herewith \$ _____.
- ☒ A check in the amount of \$690.00 for payment of the application filing fees is attached.
- ☐ Charge Fee(s) to Deposit Account No. 13-4500. Order No. _____. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ATTACHED.
- ☒ The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for filing this application, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4636. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Serial No. : To Be Assigned Examiner: To Be Assigned
Filed : July 26, 2000 (Herewith) Group Art Unit: TBA
For : OPTICAL DEVICE AND IMAGE SENSING SYSTEM



EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

Express Mail Label No. EK784549986us

Date of Deposit July 26, 2000

I hereby certify that the following attached paper(s) and/or fee
Application Fee Transmittal (in duplicate); 20 pp. of specs., 1 page of abstract, 6 pp. claims (18 TOTAL
claims); 3 Sheets of Formal Drawings (Figs. 1-3); Check in the amount of \$690.00; Information Disclosure
Statement w/ Form PTO 1449 and 1 cited reference; nd return receipt postcard

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Optical Device and Image Sensing System

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

5 The present invention relates to an optical device such as a lens device or the like used in television image sensing, and an image sensing system using the optical device.

Related Background Art

10 As a lens device used in television image sensing or the like, a device shown in Fig. 3 and 4 is known. In this lens device, a movable lens group (not shown) held in a housing 39 can be moved by rotating an operating ring 31 provided to the outer circumferential surface of a device main body 30 manually or by a
15 motor, or a stop (not shown) can be adjusted.

 A drive unit 32 provided near the housing 39 houses a motor 35 for motor-driving the operating ring 31, a control circuit (not shown), and the like, and a
20 motor operating switch 33, which is operated by the user to operate the motor 35 to drive the movable lens group is provided on the outer surface of the drive unit 32.

 This lens device has a clutch mechanism for
25 connecting/disconnecting a driving power transmission path for transmitting the drive force of the motor 35 to the operating ring 31, as shown in Fig. 4.

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More specifically, the clutch mechanism is made up of an idler gear 37 provided between an operating gear portion 34 formed on the operating gear 31 and an output gear 36 of the motor 35, and a clutch operating lever (not shown) which slides the idler gear 37 in the axial direction (longitudinal direction) of an idler shaft 38.

Upon motor driving, the clutch operating lever is operated to shift the idler gear 37 to mesh with both the operating gear portion 34 and output gear 36, thus connecting the drive force transmission path. Upon manual driving, the clutch operating lever is switched to shift the idler gear 37 to disengage from the output gear 36, thus disconnecting the drive force transmission path.

However, in the aforementioned lens device, the clutch operating lever must be operated to select the manual or motor driving mode of the operating ring. For this reason, operation is troublesome, and the manual and motor driving modes cannot be quickly switched, thus often failing to catch up with changes in image sensing situation.

Even when the drive force transmission path is connected, and while the movable lens group is motor-driven, the operating ring can be manually driven in terms of a structure. However, since a very large operating force is required due to the motor load,

operation is not easy, and the motor is overloaded.
Furthermore, when the movable lens group or the like is
motor-driven via a camera control unit (CCU) placed at
a position separated from this lens device and a camera
5 to which that lens device is mounted, it is difficult
for a person taking photographs who is near the camera
to manually operate the operating ring preferentially.

It is, therefore, an object of the present
invention to provide an optical device which is adopted
10 quickly switch the motor-driven/manual state of a drive
mechanism for driving a movable portion without
requiring any special operation so as to avoid a
problem such as overload of a motor when the movable
portion is manually operated while the drive mechanism
15 is set in the motor-driven state.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An aspect of the first invention of the present
application that achieves the above object is
20 characterized in that an optical device comprises:

an optical member that comprises the optical
device;

an operating ring which can be rotated about an
optical axis of the optical member and is used to drive
25 the optical member;

a switching mechanism which transmits a drive
force from a motor drive source to the operating ring,

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and can be switched between a state for motor-driving the optical member and a state for canceling motor driving of the optical member; and

control means for switching the switching
5 mechanism between the state for motor-driving the optical member and the state for canceling motor driving of the optical member, and

the control means switches the switching mechanism to the state for canceling motor driving of the optical
10 member on the basis of manual operation of the operating ring when the switching mechanism is set in the state for motor-driving the optical member.

In a preferred aspect, the control means detects manual operation of the operating ring on the basis of
15 a load state of the motor drive source.

In a preferred aspect, the control means detects manual operation of the operating ring on the basis of a drive current value of the motor drive source.

In a preferred aspect, the control means detects
20 manual operation of the operating ring on the basis of a counterelectromotive force produced in the motor drive source.

In a preferred aspect, the control means detects manual operation of the operating ring on the basis of
25 a difference between a drive state of the optical member corresponding to a drive command, and an actually driven state of the optical member.

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In a preferred aspect, the drive command is to command a drive position of the optical member, and the control means detects manual operation of the operating ring on the basis of a difference between the drive
5 position command of the optical member, and an actually driven position.

In a preferred aspect, the drive command is to command a drive velocity of the optical member, and the control means detects manual operation of the operating
10 ring on the basis of a difference between the drive velocity command of the optical member, and an actually driven velocity.

In a preferred aspect, the switching mechanism has a clutch mechanism for connecting/disconnecting drive
15 force transmission between the operating ring and the motor drive source, and the control means switches the switching mechanism from the state for motor-driving the optical member to the state for canceling motor driving by switching the clutch mechanism from a
20 connected state to a disconnected state.

In a preferred aspect, the optical member is a lens having a zoom function.

In a preferred aspect, the drive command of the optical member is input from operation means operated
25 by a user.

In a preferred aspect, the drive command of the optical member is input from a control unit located at

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a position separated from the optical device.

In a preferred aspect, the drive command of the optical member is input from an image sensing device which is mounted on the optical device to be able to communicate therewith, and senses an image.

In a preferred aspect, the switching mechanism is driven by the motor drive source which operates in accordance with operation of motor operation means.

A second aspect of the invention of the present application that achieves the above object is characterized in that an image sensing system comprises:

an optical member that comprises an optical device;

an operating ring which can be rotated about an optical axis of the optical member and is used to drive the optical member;

a switching mechanism which transmits a drive force from a motor drive source to the operating ring, and can be switched between a state for motor-driving the optical member and a state for canceling motor driving of the optical member;

control means for switching the switching mechanism between the state for motor-driving the optical member and the state for canceling motor driving of the optical member; and

an image sensing device which is mounted on the

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optical device to be able to communicate therewith, and senses an image, and

the control means switches the switching mechanism to the state for canceling motor driving of the optical member on the basis of manual operation of the operating ring when the switching mechanism is set in the state for motor-driving the optical member.

In a preferred aspect, the control means detects manual operation of the operating ring on the basis of a load state of the motor drive source.

In a preferred aspect, the control means detects manual operation of the operating ring on the basis of a counterelectromotive force produced in the motor drive source.

In a preferred aspect, the control means detects manual operation of the operating ring on the basis of a difference between a drive state of the optical member corresponding to a drive command, and an actually driven state of the optical member.

In a preferred aspect, the switching mechanism has a clutch mechanism for connecting/disconnecting drive force transmission between the operating ring and the motor drive source, and the control means switches the switching mechanism from the state for motor-driving the optical member to the state for canceling motor driving by switching the clutch mechanism from a connected state to a disconnected state.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a schematic view showing a lens drive mechanism of a zoom lens device according to an embodiment of the present invention;

5 Fig. 2 is an operation flow chart of a control circuit of the zoom lens device;

Fig. 3 is view showing the outer appearance of a conventional lens device; and

10 Fig. 4 is an explanatory view of mode switching of a drive mechanism in the conventional lens device.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Fig. 1 shows the arrangement of a zoom lens device (optical device) according to an embodiment of the present invention. This zoom lens device is used in, e.g., television image sensing or the like.

Referring to Fig. 1, a zoom lens 1 is held by a zoom lens barrel 2, and is movable in its optical axis direction (the right-and-left direction in Fig. 1).

20 The zoom lens barrel 2 has at least three roller members 3 which project radially outwardly, and each roller member 3 engages with a straight groove 4a formed in a stationary cylinder 4 as a housing and a curved groove 5a formed in a rotary cylinder 5.

25 The rotary cylinder 5 has a coupling pin 6 which projects radially outwardly and engages with a zoom operating ring 7 via a groove 4b formed in the

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stationary cylinder 4.

5 In such arrangement, when the zoom operating ring
7 is rotated, the rotary cylinder 5 rotates together
with the zoom operating ring 7, and the roller members
3 provided to the zoom lens barrel 2 move along the
10 straight groove 4a of the stationary cylinder 4 and the
curved groove 5a of the rotary cylinder 5. In this
manner, the zoom lens 1 moves in its optical axis
direction in the stationary cylinder 4. Note that the
operating ends of the zoom operating ring 7 and zoom
lens 1 are determined by the operating range of the
coupling pin 6 which rotates about the optical axis via
a groove 4b of the stationary cylinder 4.

15 A drive unit 8 is laid out near the stationary
cylinder 4, and houses a control circuit (main control
means) 22, a zoom motor (motor driving source) 9, a
potentiometer 10 for detecting the zoom lens position,
drive circuits 17 and 24, an operation mode
discrimination circuit 21, and the like.

20 A position detection gear 11 that meshes with an
operating gear portion 7a formed on the zoom operating
ring 7 is attached to the input shaft of the
potentiometer 10. For this reason, upon rotation of
the zoom operating ring 7, the input rotation of the
25 potentiometer 10 is obtained in correspondence with the
rotation amount of the ring 7, and the position of the
zoom lens 1 can be detected based on the detection

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Since the coupling gear 15 meshes with the operating gear portion 7b of the operating ring 7, when

the electromagnetic clutch 16 is controlled to be
turned on, the intermediate gear 14 and coupling gear
15 can engage and rotate together, and the drive force
of the zoom motor 9 can be transmitted to the zoom
5 operating ring 7 to rotate it. In this manner, the
zoom lens 1 (zoom lens barrel 2) is motor-driven in its
optical axis direction. In the description of this
embodiment, the state of the drive mechanism for
motor-driving the zoom lens 1 in such way will be
10 referred to as a motor zoom mode. As will be described
later, the operating ring 7 can be manually rotated
even in this motor zoom mode.

When the electromagnetic clutch 16 is controlled
to be turned off, the intermediate gear 14 and coupling
15 gear 15 disengage so as not to transmit the drive force
of the zoom motor 9 to the zoom operating ring 7. In
this case, when the user manually rotates the zoom
operating ring 7, he or she can smoothly manually drive
the zoom lens 1 without experiencing any load of the
20 zoom motor 9. In the description of this embodiment,
the state of the drive mechanism for manually driving
the zoom lens 1 will be referred to as a manual zoom
mode.

The electromagnetic clutch 16 is ON/OFF-controlled
25 by the clutch drive circuit 17 that receives a signal
from the control circuit 22.

Note that marks indicating positions of the zoom

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lens 1 are graduated on the operating ring 7, and the zoom position can be externally visually confirmed without any complicated structure.

Mode setups of the drive mechanism for driving the zoom lens 1 will be explained below with reference to the flow chart shown in Fig. 2.

The manual zoom mode and motor zoom mode can be switched by ON/OFF-controlling the electromagnetic clutch 16. One of these modes to be set is determined on the basis of command signals input from a zoom operating member 18 provided on the outer surface of the drive unit 8 to start motor driving, a zoom demand 19 provided to a tripod that supports this lens device and a camera device 20, a camera control unit (CCU) used to operate this lens device from a remote place, and the camera device 20 controlled by this CCU.

The lens device receives a velocity command signal from the zoom motor operating member 18 and zoom demand 19, and a position command signal from the camera control unit (CCU) and camera device 20.

These command signals are sent to the control circuit 22 and also to the operation mode discrimination circuit 21. Furthermore, the velocity command signal is sent to a velocity command discrimination circuit 21a, and the position command signal is sent to a position command discrimination circuit 21b.

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The zoom motor operating member 18 and zoom demand 19 output a reference signal when they are not operated, and inputs a signal value, which shifts from the reference signal in accordance with the operation amount, to the control circuit 22 and the velocity command discrimination circuit 21a in the lens device, when they are operated.

The velocity command discrimination circuit 21a sends a signal to the control circuit 22 to set the drive mechanism in the manual zoom mode when the zoom motor operating member 18 and zoom demand 19 output a signal near the reference signal. The control circuit 22, which has received this signal in step (abbreviated as S in Fig. 2) 51, determines in step 52 or 53 that the zoom motor operating member 18 and zoom demand 19 are not operated, and the flow advances to step 54.

When a signal other than that near the reference signal is output, the velocity command discrimination circuit 21 sends a signal to the control circuit 22 to set the drive mechanism in the motor zoom mode. The control circuit 22, which has received this signal in step 51, determines in step 52 or 53 that the zoom motor operating member 18 or zoom demand 19 has been operated, and the flow advances to step 59. In step 59, the control circuit 22 sends a signal to the clutch drive circuit 17 to turn on the electromagnetic clutch 16.

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Upon receiving a position command signal from the camera device 20 or the like, the position command discrimination circuit 21b sends a signal to the control circuit 22 to set the drive mechanism in the manual zoom mode, when the signal value of the received signal does not change within a predetermined period of time. The control circuit 22, which has received this signal in step 51, determines in step 54 via steps 52 and 53 that no position command signal (operation signal) is input from the camera device 20 or the like, and the flow advances to step 63. In step 63, the control circuit 22 sends a signal to the clutch drive circuit 17 to turn off the electromagnetic clutch 16.

On the other hand, when the signal value has changed within a predetermined period of time, the position command discrimination circuit 21b sends a signal to the control circuit 22 to set the drive mechanism in the motor zoom mode. The control circuit 22, which has received this signal in step 51, determines in step 54 via steps 52 and 53 that the position command signal (operation signal) has been input from the camera device 20 or the like, and the flow advances to step 55. In step 55, the control circuit 22 sends a signal to the clutch drive circuit 17 to turn on the electromagnetic clutch 16.

The control circuit 22 which has executed step 55 or 59 then executes step 56 or 60, and sends a signal

to the motor drive circuit 24 to control driving of the zoom motor 9 on the basis of the command signal received in step 51, until this drive control is completed (step 58 or 62).

5 As described above, in this embodiment, since the mode of the drive mechanism of the zoom lens 1 is switched on the basis of the input command signal, mode switching of the drive mechanism can be quickly attained without requiring any special operation of,
10 e.g., a mode switching lever or the like unlike in the prior art.

 The operations when the drive mechanism of the zoom lens 1 is set in the motor zoom mode, and when the user manually operates the operating ring 7 during
15 motor driving of the zoom lens 1 will be explained with reference to the flow chart in Fig. 2.

 In this embodiment, when the user manually operates the operating ring 7 during motor driving of the zoom lens 1, this manual operation overrides motor
20 driving, and the electromagnetic clutch 16 is turned off, thus switching the zoom mode from the motor zoom mode to the manual zoom mode.

 In order to detect manual operation of the operating ring 7 during motor driving of the zoom lens
25 1, in this embodiment, a manual detection circuit 23 detects a change in drive current value supplied from the motor drive circuit 24 that drives the zoom motor 9

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to the zoom motor 9.

More specifically, the manual detection circuit 23 samples the drive current value from the motor drive circuit 24 at given time intervals, and determines that manual operation has been done during motor driving of the zoom lens 1 when the variation width between a current value sampled initially or a predetermined time before, and the currently sampled current value is equal to or larger than a predetermined value (i.e., when the zoom motor 9 is overloaded). In such state, the circuit 23 sends a signal to the control circuit 22.

In this manner, the control circuit 22 determines based on the signal from the manual detection circuit 23 in step 57 or 61 that the zoom motor 9 has been overloaded (the operating ring 7 has been manually operated) during motor driving of the zoom lens 1 in which a routine in steps 56 to 58 or steps 60 to 62 repeats itself, and the flow jumps to step 63 to turn off the electromagnetic clutch 16. In this manner, when the manual operation force acts on the zoom lens 1 during motor driving of the zoom lens 1, the zoom mode is automatically switched from the motor zoom mode to the manual zoom mode.

As another manual operation detection means, a change in counter electromotive force produced in the zoom motor 9 may be detected, and it may be determined

that manual operation has been done during motor driving of the zoom lens 1, when the variation width between a counterelectromotive force sampled initially or a predetermined time before, and the currently
5 sampled counterelectromotive force is equal to or larger than a predetermined value.

Furthermore, the position data of the zoom lens 1 may be detected using the potentiometer 10, the difference between this detection result and the zoom
10 position corresponding to the position command signal may be computed upon every sampling, and it may be determined that manual operation has been done during motor driving of the zoom lens 1, when the difference has abruptly changed.

Moreover, velocity data may be computed by
15 differentiating the position data detected by the potentiometer, the difference between the computed velocity data and the drive velocity corresponding to the velocity command signal may be computed at every
20 sampling, and it may be determined that manual operation has been done during motor driving of the zoom lens 1, when the difference has abruptly changed.

As described above, according to this embodiment, not only the zoom mode can be switched between the
25 manual zoom mode and motor zoom mode without requiring any special mode switching operation, but also manual operation during motor driving of the zoom lens 1 can

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be detected without adding any sensor member, and the motor zoom mode can be switched to the manual zoom mode. For this reason, when the user makes manual operation during motor driving of the zoom lens 1, manual operation with an appropriate operation force can override motor driving.

In the above description, when the operating ring 7 has been manually operated during motor driving of the zoom lens 1, the drive mechanism is switched from the motor zoom mode to the manual zoom mode. Also, when manual operation has been done while the drive mechanism is set in the motor zoom mode but the zoom lens 1 is not motor-driven (the zoom lens 1 stands still), manual operation may be detected by detecting, e.g., the counterelectromotive force produced in the zoom motor 9, and the drive mechanism may be switched from the motor zoom mode to the manual zoom mode.

In this manner, manual operation of the zoom lens 1 can be quickly and smoothly started without requiring any special user operation for switching the mode of the drive mechanism.

In this embodiment, the manual zoom mode and motor zoom mode are switched using the electromagnetic clutch 16. In place of the electromagnetic clutch, some other means such as a solenoid or the like that can connect/disconnect the drive force transmission path using a motor can be used.

5 However, the commands they issue are not limited to the
velocity or position command.

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drive mechanism is automatically switched to the state for canceling motor driving of the movable portion, manual operation can be easily done at an appropriate operation force even during motor driving of the

5 movable portion. Hence, even when motor drive control is made from a remote position, e.g., by the CCU or the like, manual operation done by a person taking photographs near the camera can override motor drive control.

10 With these inventions, an optical device and image sensing system which can obtain high operability in various image sensing situations can be realized.

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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An optical device comprising:

an optical member that comprises said optical device;

5 an operating ring which can be rotated about an optical axis of said optical member and is used to drive said optical member;

a switching mechanism which transmits a drive force from a motor drive source to said operating ring, and can be switched between a state for motor-driving said optical member and a state for canceling motor driving of said optical member; and

control means for switching said switching mechanism between the state for motor-driving said optical member and the state for canceling motor driving of said optical member,

wherein said control means switches said switching mechanism to the state for canceling motor driving of said optical member on the basis of manual operation of said operating ring when said switching mechanism is set in the state for motor-driving said optical member.

2. A device according to claim 1, wherein said control means detects manual operation of said operating ring on the basis of a load state of the motor drive source.

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3. A device according to claim 2, wherein said control means detects manual operation of said operating ring on the basis of a drive current value of the motor drive source.

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4. A device according to claim 1, wherein said control means detects manual operation of said operating ring on the basis of a counterelectromotive force produced in the motor drive source.

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5. A device according to claim 1, wherein said control means detects manual operation of said operating ring on the basis of a difference between a drive state of said optical member corresponding to a drive command, and an actually driven state of said optical member.

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6. A device according to claim 5, wherein the drive command is to command a drive position of said optical member, and said control means detects manual operation of said operating ring on the basis of a difference between the drive position command of said optical member, and an actually driven position.

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7. A device according to claim 5, wherein the drive command is to command a drive velocity of said optical member, and said control means detects manual

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operation of said operating ring on the basis of a difference between the drive velocity command of said optical member, and an actually driven velocity.

5 8. A device according to claim 1, wherein said switching mechanism has a clutch mechanism for connecting/disconnecting drive force transmission between said operating ring and the motor drive source, and said control means switches said switching
10 mechanism from the state for motor-driving said optical member to the state for canceling motor driving by switching said clutch mechanism from a connected state to a disconnected state.

15 9. A device according to claim 1, wherein said optical member is a lens having a zoom function.

20 10. A device according to claim 5, wherein the drive command of said optical member is input from operation means operated by a user.

25 11. A device according to claim 5, wherein the drive command of said optical member is input from a control unit located at a position separated from said optical device.

12. A device according to claim 5, wherein the

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an optical member that comprises an optical device;

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an image sensing device which is mounted on the optical device to be able to communicate therewith, and

senses an image,

wherein said control means switches said switching mechanism to the state for canceling motor driving of said optical member on the basis of manual operation of said operating ring when said switching mechanism is set in the state for motor-driving said optical member.

15. A system according to claim 14, wherein said control means detects manual operation of said operating ring on the basis of a load state of the motor drive source.

16. A system according to claim 14, wherein said control means detects manual operation of said operating ring on the basis of a counterelectromotive force produced in the motor drive source.

17. A system according to claim 14, wherein said control means detects manual operation of said operating ring on the basis of a difference between a drive state of said optical member corresponding to a drive command, and an actually driven state of said optical member.

18. A system according to claim 14, wherein said switching mechanism has a clutch mechanism for connecting/disconnecting drive force transmission

between said operating ring and the motor drive source,
and said control means switches said switching
mechanism from the state for motor-driving said optical
member to the state for canceling motor driving by
5 switching said clutch mechanism from a connected state
to a disconnected state.

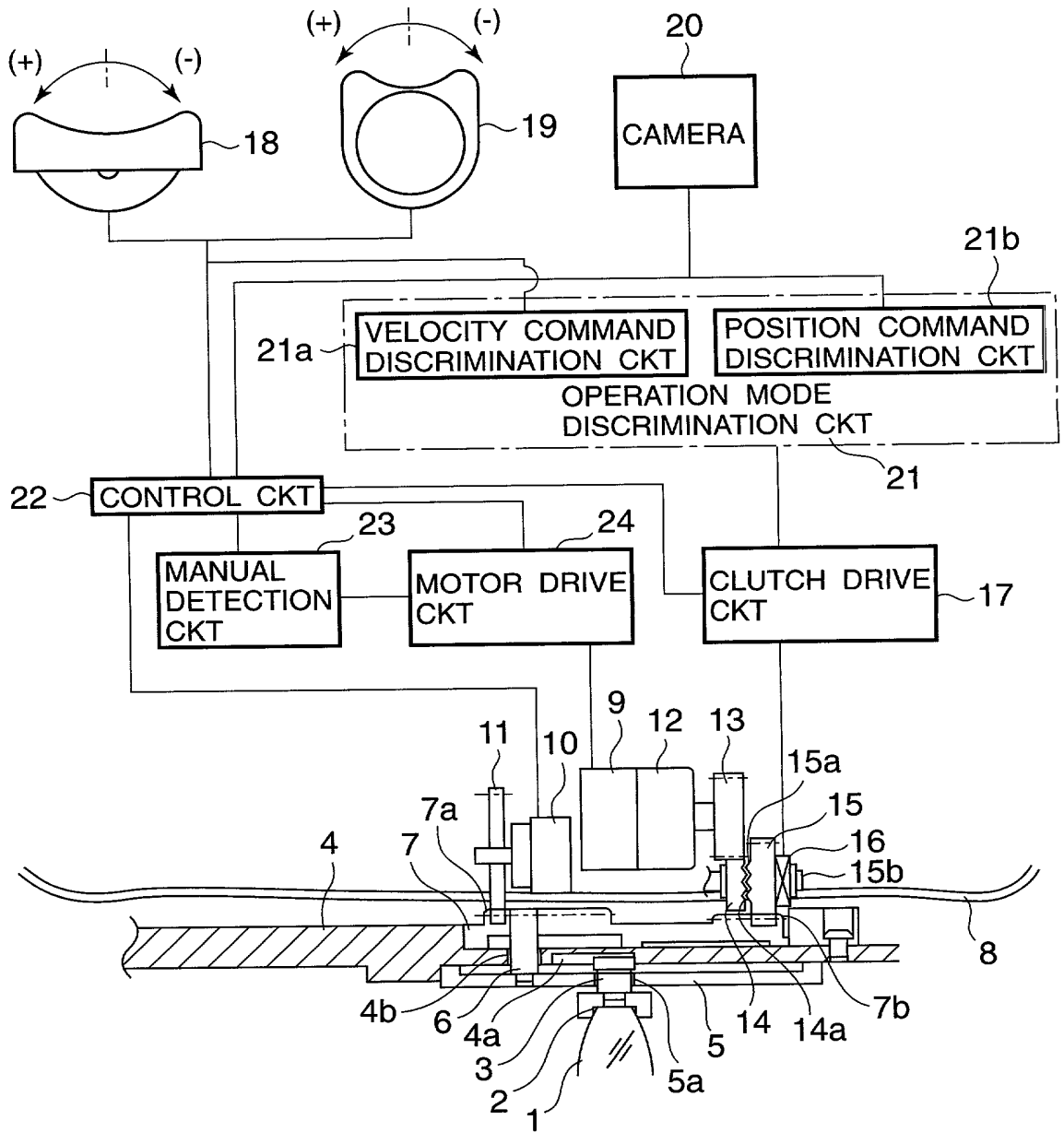
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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

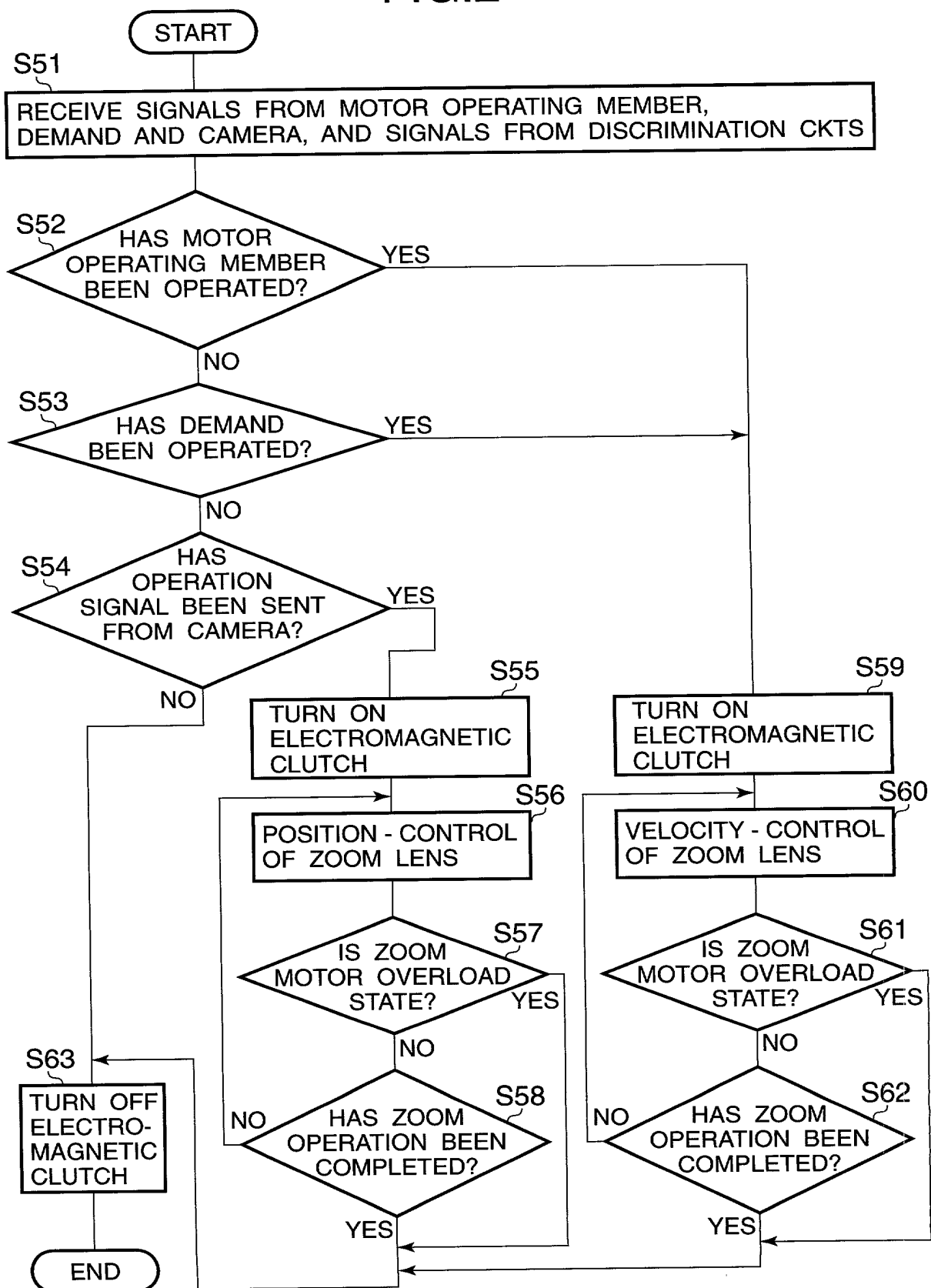
An optical device has an optical member that includes the optical device, an operating ring which can be rotated about the optical axis of the optical member and is used to drive the optical member, a switching mechanism which transmits the drive force from a motor drive source to the operating ring, and can be switched between a state for motor-driving the optical member and a state for canceling motor driving of the optical member, and control means for switching the switching mechanism between the motor-driving state and the motor-driving canceling state, and the control means switches the switching mechanism to the state for canceling motor driving on the basis of manual operation of the operating ring when the switching mechanism is motor-driving the optical member.

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FIG. 1



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FIG.2



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FIG.3

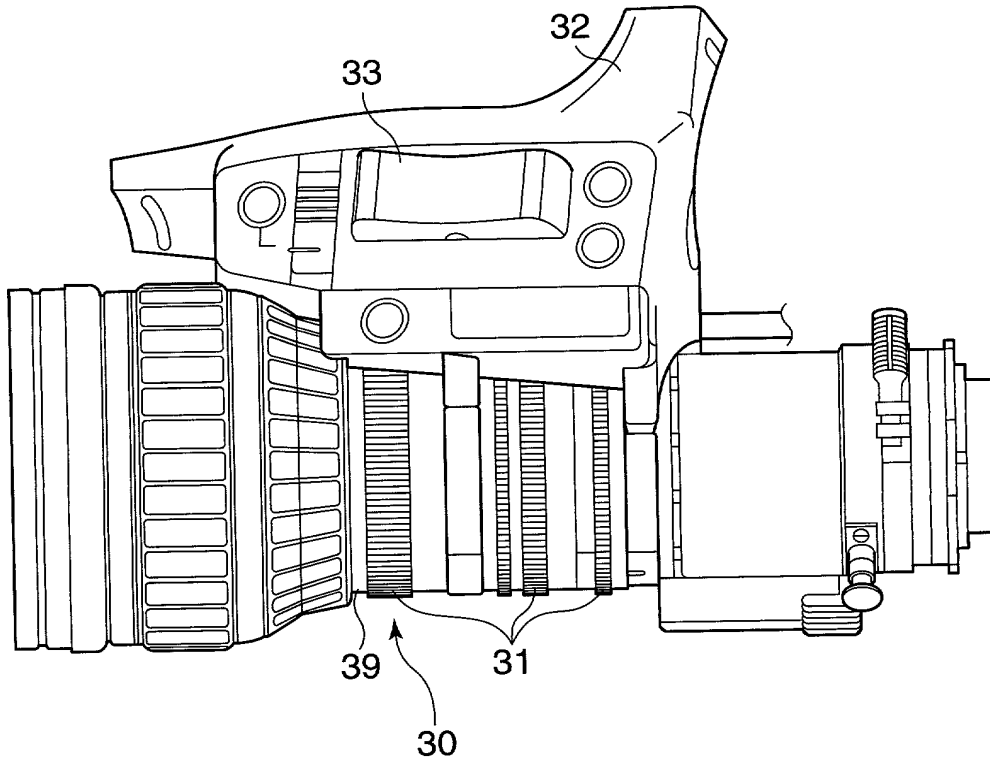


FIG.4

